

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. **(currently amended)** A first communications device for use in a communications system with a second communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and the first communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the first communications device comprising:

a receiving unit receiving communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

~~an acquisition unit obtaining an original destination address of the communications data from the destination address modification device;~~

a source address modification database that records a to-be-modified destination address and the modified destination address in association;

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of response data<sub>2</sub> in response to the communications data ~~with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device~~, to the an original destination address obtained by the acquisition unit ~~from one of the source address modification database and the destination address modification device~~; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data with the source address modified by the source address modification unit directly from the first communications device to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

2. (canceled)

3. (withdrawn from consideration) The communications device according to claim 1 wherein:

the communication device comprises a request unit requesting the destination address modification device to transmit destination address modification information of the communications data; and wherein

the source address modification unit modifies the source address of the response data to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, based on the destination address modification information transmitted from the destination address modification device.

4. (previously presented) The first communications device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of communications processing units; and

a sorting unit assigning a process to the relevant communications processing unit of the plurality of communications processing units based on identification information added to the communications data.

5. (previously presented) The first communications device according to claim 4, wherein said sorting unit assigns a process to the relevant communications processing unit of the plurality of communications processing units based on information designated by a communications port included in the communications data.

6. **(currently amended)** A destination address modification device for use in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of

data transmitted by a client communications device, the destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the destination address modification device comprising:

a destination address modification database that records a to-be-modified destination address and the modified destination address in association;

a receiving unit receiving the communications data ~~with a destination address~~from the client communications device;

a destination address modification unit modifying the destination address of the communications data ~~addressed to the first communications device to an address of the second communications device,~~ with reference to the destination address modification database, to the modified destination address;

a modification information generation unit transmitting an address of the first communications device ~~that~~ with the destination address modified, which is an original address of the communications data, to the second communications device that is the modified address, wherein

~~a source address of the response data in response to the communications data is with a source address~~ modified to the address of the first communications device that is the original destination, ~~and the response of the communications~~ data is transmitted directly to the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The destination address modification device according to claim 6, wherein

said modification unit transmits information indicating the destination address before modification as modification information.

9. (previously presented) The destination address modification device according to claim 6, wherein

said modification unit adds information indicating the destination address before modification to a data section of the communications data and transmits the data.

10. **(currently amended)** A communications method in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, comprising the steps of:

modifying the destination address of communications data received from the client communications device to the modified destination address in accordance with a destination address modification database recording a to-be-modified destination address and the modified destination address in association;

receiving, by the second communications device, communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

obtaining, from one of the destination address modification device and a source address modification database in the second communications device recording the to-be-

~~modified destination address and the modified destination address in association, an address~~  
~~of the first communications device that is an~~the original destination of the communications data;

modifying a source address of response data in response to the communications data to the address of the first communications device that is the original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step to the address of the first ~~communication~~communications device that is the original destination, directly to the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of requesting the destination address modification device to transmit address modification information; and

receiving the destination address modification information from the destination address modification device and modifying a source address of data in response to communications data with an address modified by the destination address modification device base on the address modification information.

12. (canceled)

13. **(currently amended)** A computer-readable storage medium which stores a communications control program performing control of communications in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device

modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client

communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to enable a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

modifying the destination address of communications data received from the client communications device to the modified destination address in accordance with a destination address modification database recording a to-be-modified destination address and the modified destination address in association;

receiving, by the second communications device, the communications data with ~~a~~ the destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

obtaining, by the second communications device from the destination address modification device, an address of the first communications device that is an original destination of the communications data;

modifying a source address of response data to the communications data ~~with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to an the obtained address of a~~ to the address of the first communications device that is ~~an~~ the original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step, directly to the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

14. (withdrawn from consideration) The computer-readable communications control program of claim 13 further comprising the functions of:

requesting the destination address modification device to transmit address modification information; and

modifying a source address of response to the source of the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination modification device based on modification information.

15. **(currently amended)** A computer-readable storage medium which stores a communications control program performing control of communications used in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device for enabling a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

receiving the communications data with ~~a~~the destination address modified by ~~a~~the destination address modification device;

obtaining, by the second communications device from one of the destination address modification device and a source address modification database in the second communications device recording a to-be-modified destination address and the modified destination address in association, an address of the first communications device that is ~~an~~the original destination of the communications data;

modifying a source address of response data to the communications data to the obtained address of the first communications device that is the original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified , directly to the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

16. (canceled)

17. **(currently amended)** A communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, comprising:

the destination address modification device, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving communications data;

a destination address modification unit modifying the destination address of the communications data addressed to the first communications device to an address of the second communications device; and

a modification information generation unit transmitting an address of the first communications device that is an original address of the communications data to the second communications device;

the second communications device, comprising:

a source address modification database recording a to-be-modified destination address and the modified destination address in association;



an acquisition unit obtaining an address of the first communications device that is an original destination of the communications data from one of the destination address modification device and the source address modification database;

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of response data in response to the communications data to the address of the first ~~communication~~ communications device obtained by the acquisition unit; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the first ~~communication~~ communications device, directly to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

18. **(new)** A first communications device for use in a communications system with a second communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and the first communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the first communications device comprising:

an obtaining unit obtaining a to-be-modified destination address and modified source address port number or destination address port number that corresponds to a pre-modified source address port number or a pre-modified destination address port number;

a receiving unit receiving communications data with the destination address, source address port number, or destination address port number modified by the destination address modification device;

a response data generating unit, obtaining an inside port number corresponding to the modified source address port number or the modified destination address port number of the communications data in accordance with a port number database in which either the source address port number or the destination address port number and the inside port number are associated, and generating response data including data of the processing result produced by making a communications processing unit determined by the obtained inside port number process the communications data; and

a source address modification unit modifying the source address of the communication data to an address of the first communications device that is the original destination, and also modifying the source address port number or destination address port number to a pre-modified source address port number or a pre-modified destination address port number obtained by the obtaining unit, wherein

the response data with the source address modified to the address of the second communications device that is the original destination is transmitted directly from the first communications device to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

**19. (new)** A destination address modification device for use in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, the destination address modification device modifying a destination address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, the destination address modification device comprising:

a source address modification database that records a to-be-modified destination address, either a pre-modified source address port number or a pre-modified destination address port number, modified destination address, and either a modified source address port number or a modified destination address port number in association;

a receiving unit receiving the communications data from the client communications device;

a destination address modification unit obtaining, with reference to the destination address modification unit, the modified destination address corresponding to the received destination address of the communications data, and either the modified source address port number or the modified destination address port number, and then modifying the destination address of the communications data and either the source address port number or the destination address port number to the obtained modified destination address and either the modified source address port number or the modified destination address port number;

a modification information generation unit transmitting an address of the first communications device with the destination address modified, which is an original address of the communications data, and either the pre-modified source address port number or the pre-modified destination port number, to the second communications device, wherein

the response data with a source address modified to the address of the first communications device that is the original destination of the communications data is transmitted directly to the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

20. **(new)** A communications method in a communications system with a first communications device that is an original destination of data transmitted by a client communications device, a destination address modification device modifying a destination

address of communications data transmitted from the client communications device, and a second communications device receiving the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, comprising the steps of:

obtaining the modified destination address corresponding to a destination address of the received communications data, and either the modified source address port number or destination address port number, with reference to a destination address modification database in which a to-be-modified destination address, either a pre-modified source address port number or a pre-modified destination address port number, a modified destination address, and either a modified source address port number or a modified destination address port number are stored in association;

transmitting the communications data with a destination address modified to the modified destination address by the destination address modification device and either the source address port number or the destination address port number modified to the modified source address port number or the modified destination address port number, to the second communications device;

receiving, by the second communications device, the communications data with the destination address, source address port number, or destination address port number modified;

obtaining an inside port number corresponding to either the modified source address port number or the modified destination address port number of the communications data with reference to a port number database in which either the source address port number or the destination address port number and the inside port number are associated, and generating response data including data of a processing result produced by making the communications processing unit determined by the obtained inside port number process the communications data by second communications device;

modifying the source address of the communications data to the address of the first communications device that is the original destination, and also modifying either the source address port number or the destination address port number to the pre-modified source address port number or the pre-modified destination address port number, respectively; and transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step to the address of the first communications device that is the original destination, directly to the client communications device from the second communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.